

NEWS RELEASE



STATE OF ALABAMA
Department of Industrial
Relations
News For Immediate Release
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ALABAMA POSTS 5.3 PERCENT JOBLESS RATE IN JUNE

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, July 16, 2004 Alabama's unemployment rate dropped from 5.9 percent in May to 5.3 percent in June, as the number of unemployed persons decreased by nearly 12,000.

"Through six months in 2004, Alabama has posted its lowest unemployment rate of the year at 5.3 percent, which is also lower than the 5.9 percent jobless rate in June 2003," says Phyllis Kennedy, director of the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations. "The latest unemployment rate represents 114,900 unemployed Alabamians. There were 126,700 unemployed in May and 125,700 in June 2003."

2004 ALABAMA JOBLESS RATES

January	6.0 %
February	5.6 %
March	5.9 %
April	5.8 %
May	5.9 %
<u>June</u>	<u>5.3 %</u>
Average	5.7 %

The comparable national unemployment rate for June is 5.6 percent, unchanged from May and below the 6.3 percent rate in June 2003.

Over the past year, there was a net gain of 2,500 jobs in wage and salary employment. The majority of the annual growth occurred in trade (retail and wholesale), transportation, and utilities (+5,500); construction (+2,300); professional and business services (+1,400); and leisure and hospitality (+1,200). The manufacturing sector lost 5,700 jobs over the year.

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County unemployment rates, Metropolitan Area Unemployment Rates, and an Alabama map of county unemployment rates, are available at: <http://dir.alabama.gov>. Click on "Alabama Labor Market Information Division" under "Quick Links" and follow prompts.